

EXOTIC PLANTS ESTABLISHED IN MIDDLESEX
COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

WILLIAM BREWSTER.

Two sisters, Miss Mary S. and Miss Harriet L. Eaton, living not far from the village centre of Concord, Massachusetts, at the rear of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, are interested in birds and wild flowers and have long been familiarly acquainted with most of those occurring regularly in that neighborhood. Behind their house and cultivated grounds lies a neglected, grassy field, crowning a wind-swept hill-top. Here, some six or seven years ago, they found a yellow-flowered Vetch, growing in arid, rather sandy soil. Then represented by only a few plants it has since so increased and spread that it now covers a space ten or fifteen feet across with a tangled mat of semiprostrate stems and foliage, to the almost complete exclusion of all other vegetation. When first shown to me on June 27 of the present year, by Miss Mary Eaton, it was apparently passing out of bloom and already bearing pea-like pods in various stages of development although still adorned with many bright yellow flowers. Specimens of it taken then and there with Miss Eaton's kind permission have since been deposited in the Gray Herbarium where it has been identified as *Lathyrus pratensis*. According to the latest edition of Gray's Manual this species, naturalized from Europe, occurs in "fields and waste places," locally, from New Brunswick to New York and Ontario. It was reported from Concord about nineteen years ago by Mr. A. W. Hosmer, RHODORA, i. 223 (1899), and it may be of interest that it has persisted until this time. The specimen, deposited in the Gray Herbarium, is doubtless the one which formed the basis of the recent record in RHODORA, xx. 108 (1918).

After visiting the bed of *Lathyrus*, Miss Eaton and I were returning towards her house when some handsome tall shrubs or small trees, scattered along the line of a brush-grown stone wall, attracted our attention. In all there may have been ten or a dozen of them, varying in height from two or three to six or seven feet. They looked not unlike young Tupelos, having similarly smooth, glossy, obovate leaves and sparsely-distributed, reddish, berry-like fruit. But their

leaves were smaller than those of the Tupelo and the fruit proved on close examination, to be three- instead of one-seeded. Although Miss Eaton had seen them there before she could not name them, nor could I. We then thought they might have "escaped" from the neighboring Cemetery where, of course, all manner of exotic plants are, or may be, introduced from time to time. Only a few days later, however, I came upon two others near our farm house and at a distance of almost three miles from Sleepy Hollow. They were growing beside a cart path that crosses low-lying, peaty land once cultivated but now for the most part densely thicketed with high blueberry bushes, alders, maples, gray birches, etc. Here they must have been established for many a year, being apparently mature although no more than seven or eight feet tall. This, however, is said to be about the maximum height of the species which proves to be *Rhamnus Frangula* L., a Buckthorn, native to Europe and given in the Manual as established in Ontario, on Long Island and in northern New Jersey. It was kindly determined for me at the Gray Herbarium, from specimens of its branches, leaves and fruit obtained at Concord. These, I understand, are the first that the Herbarium has received from any locality in New England, although the species has recently been reported, in RHODORA, xix. 230 (1917), as found near New Haven, Connecticut, by Prof. G. E. Nichols.

Thus are we once more reminded of Thoreau's humorous maxim: "*Ne quid quæsiveris extra te Concordiamque.*"

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS.